

Senate File 183 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 183

BY SCHNEIDER

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to institutional health facilities under the
2 newborn safe haven Act.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 233.1, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code
2 2017, is amended to read as follows:

3 a. "*Institutional health facility*" means any of the
4 following:

5 (1) a A hospital as defined in section 135B.1, including
6 a facility providing medical or health services that is open
7 twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week and is a
8 hospital emergency room or a health care facility as defined
9 in section 135C.1.

10 (2) An emergency medical care provider who provides
11 emergency medical services as defined in section 147A.1.

12 (3) A licensed emergency care facility, as defined in
13 section 147A.21, that is a freestanding facility.

14 (4) A licensed child-placing agency, as defined in section
15 238.1, that meets all of the following criteria:

16 (a) Agrees to act as a designated emergency infant care
17 provider.

18 (b) Employs a licensed registered nurse or another
19 individual who performs reasonable acts necessary to protect
20 the physical health or safety of the newborn infant.

21 EXPLANATION

22 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
23 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

24 This bill relates to institutional health facilities
25 authorized under the newborn safe haven Act to accept the
26 voluntary relinquishment of physical custody of a newborn
27 infant by a parent of a newborn infant up to 14 days old, or by
28 a person authorized by the parent, without fear of prosecution
29 for abandonment.

30 Under current law, "institutional health facility" means
31 a hospital including a facility providing medical or health
32 services that is open 24 hours per day, seven days per week and
33 is a hospital emergency room or a health care facility.

34 The bill expands the definition of "institutional health
35 facility" to include an emergency medical care provider who

1 provides emergency medical services, a freestanding licensed
2 emergency medical care facility, and a licensed child-placing
3 agency that meets certain criteria.